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AN ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE N. C.
STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY BY HON. KENNETH
RAYNER... OCT. 1854

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AN ADDRESS N. C.
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DELIVERED BEFORE THE

NORTH CAROLINA
State Agricultural Society,

BY

HON. KENNETH RAYNER,
OF HERTFORD,

AT THE SECOND ANNUAL FAIR OF THE SOCIETY, THURSDAY,
OCTOBER 19TH, 1854.

Printed by order of the Society.

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STEAM POWER PRESS OF THE "SOUTHERN WEEKLY POST,"

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ADDRESS.

*Mr. President and Gentlemen,
of the North Carolina State Agricultural Society :*

I congratulate you on the favorable auspices under which we are assembled, and on the stirring and gladdening scene this day exhibited. It is a scene well calculated to awaken emotions of joyous pride for the present, and cheering hopes for the future, in the bosom of every patriotic son of the good OLD NORTH STATE. The promise held out by our last Fair, on this same spot—our then first essay in an untried field—has been more than fulfilled. The seeds of industry, enterprise, and State pride, then sown, happened to fall on fruitful soil ; and by a diligent cultivation, have already ripened into a rich and abundant harvest.

What spectacle is better calculated to call into active play all the nobler and more generous impulses of our nature, than a scene like this? Whilst in our own country, the elements of political discord are in agitation throughout the borders of other States—whilst on two Continents of the old world, opposing hosts are confronting each other ready for the work of slaughter—here, we meet together as friends and fellow-countrymen, for the purpose of making our common offerings around the altar of Concord, and of celebrating the achievements of the pursuits of peace. A calm survey of this living and moving panorama, is well calculated to superinduce reflections of a moral as well as practical character—to stir up associations connected with our past history and future destiny. Centuries in the history of nations, and the progress of peoples are but as days in the lives of individuals. Carry your minds but two short centuries back and contrast in imagination, the scene then

presented on this spot, with that which now greets our vision. The solitude of nature was then undisturbed by any sounds, but the hum of the breeze amid the boughs of primeval forests; whilst now, the joyous greetings and gratulations of thousands of freemen, attest the presence of Christian civilization. *Then*, the wild and tameless beasts of the wilderness sought their lairs or crept stealthily to their prey—where are *now* standing in their stalls, improved specimens of those noble domestic animals, whose usefulness ministers to human wants, and whose docility exacts the tribute of human kindness. *Then*, the surface of the earth presented an unbroken mould, the vegetable deposite of ages—where *now*, varied implements of husbandry attest the efforts of human ingenuity for penetrating deeply the bosom of the earth. *Then*, where from the council-fire proceeded the only conservative element of authority, known to the government of the red man—*now* proudly towers within our vision an edifice, erected by freemen for the government of themselves. *Now*, stand in sight, temples vocal with praise to the great Dispenser of these manifold blessings—where *then*, amid the silence of solitude, the commotion of the elements alone proclaimed his majesty and power.

What has effected this mighty, this wonderful change?—The avocation of nineteen twentieths of this vast assemblage readily answers the question. This great change has been wrought by agricultural enterprise and the mechanic arts—those concomitants of civilization; which it is the object of our association to honor, encourage, and promote.

Nothing has been more clearly demonstrated by the history of the human race, than that man's natural state is the social state. This law of his being adheres to him in all the varied relations of his existence. It is the source of his strength and power. And it is remarkable that that animal the highest in the scale of finite being, endowed with the highest intelligence, made in God's own likeness, second

only to the angels—should be the most dependent on his kind, for exertion, for strength and happiness. This is the law of his being, no matter what may be the phase of civilization under which he lives. Man has never yet been found, in so degraded a condition, as to be able to dispense with it. The roving Indian, the Fee-Jee cannibal, the Papuan of New-Guinea, the Bushman of South Africa, are as subject to this decree of nature as the most elevated type of the Caucasian race. This tendency of man to the social state, is the origin of government itself. The protection of the weak against the strong, and the security to the ingenious and industrious, of the rewards of their labor, against violence and oppression, first led man to seek for safety in association—the theory of the social contract being, that what man consented to voluntarily, was afterwards enforced through constraint, by the depositaries of power. Happiness, as well as security, is another leading object of the social state. The private relations of life also appertain to the developments of social life. The relations of parent and child, husband and wife, the great sources of man's temporal happiness, around which cluster so many hallowed associations and tender sentiments, have their origin in the principle of association and mutual dependence. The discharge of the duties which man owes to his God, in all highly civilized states pertain to his social as well as his individual character. The early founders of the Christian Church, availed themselves of the social tendency of man, in organizing a pure worship, and in disseminating a pure faith. It was on the principle of association—by the organization of social communities, recognizing correlative duties, benefits and burdens among their several members, that the Christian Church was planted. The cloister of the monk and the cell of the anchorite, is as much a perversion of man's religions, as the cave of the hermit, is of his social nature.

This principle of association is the great element, not only of man's security and happiness; but of his strength and power in the diffusion of knowledge, and in subduing and controlling the physical world. It is the striking feature in the rapid and unprecedented progress of the civilization of this age. The fable of the dying man, who presented to his sons a *bundle* of rods, which when kept bound together, their united strength could not break, but which when separated, each one could easily snap to pieces, contains the true philosophy of associated effort. It is associated wealth and enterprise, fostered and encouraged by government, that have elevated England to her proud and lofty position. It is this which has subdued an empire of more than a hundred million of souls in India, to her control—which has covered the ocean with her commerce—enabled her manufacturers to furnish the world—dug her canals—covered her surface with a net-work of railroads—and sent her missionaries into heathen lands upon the errand of peace and glad-tidings. Association has been equally potent in the advancement of science. Her Royal societies, for the promotion of science, by combining and concentrating the contributions of her wise men and philosophers, have done more during the present century, than the scattered and isolated efforts of individuals for ten centuries preceding; in unfolding the arcana of nature, exposing error and establishing data, as a stand-point, from which genius and labor promise to achieve discovery, invention and knowledge still more startling, before the century shall expire. Her "Society for the diffusion of useful knowledge," has done more, in the last quarter of a century, to diffuse intelligence among the masses, and to elevate them in the social scale, than all the patronage of men of letters, by the wealthy and the great, since "the revival of learning." It is this element of association, which has placed France at the head of christendom, in the abstract sciences. Her "Academy of Sciences," has continued to exist and

flourish, through all the mutations of her government, fostered, honored, and encouraged by the "powers that be!" It operates as a great laboratory, through which the lucubrations of her greatest minds are submitted to the closest analysis, that the useful and the true may be eliminated for the benefit of mankind. The eclectic character of the moral philosophy of the age is founded on this principle of association—that moral truth is not to be found in any isolated system of any individual mind; but by a combination of whatever, from all systems, experience has proven to be true in the past, awaiting the progress of events for the elucidation of other truths, as time rolls on.

In the application of science to the useful arts and the pursuits of life, association has achieved far more wonderful results in our own country, than in either England or France—the two most powerful and highly civilized States of European Christendom. The embarkation on the Mayflower, and the planting our infant colonies, had their origin in voluntary association. Combination of individual resources for the common good, effected what separate and detached exertions, without concentration, was too feeble to accomplish. It was by association and concert, that the early settlers were protected against the tomahawk of the savage, by which our great battle of freedom was fought and won, by which our free institutions were founded. It is association that has subdued a forest continent—tunneled our rugged mountains—spanned our rushing rivers—bound us together by 13,000 miles of railroad—covered New England with workshops—disemboweled the earth of her mineral treasures—whitened the waters of every sea with our commerce—covered our coasts and inland streams with floating palaces—and taught the lightning to speak in a language, the echoes of which reverberate in a moment from one extremity of the continent to the other. It has been no less efficient in ministering to our moral than our physical wants. It has filled our libraries with the lore of ages—founded

our colleges and institutions of learning—pointed the spires of our churches heavenward—and sent the gospel to the heathen of every land. The secret of this mighty power of association is, that it teaches man the dignity and elevation of his nature—that his high mission is not to labor for himself alone—that he owes something to his fellows, in his day and generation. It appeals to the pride, the patriotism, the benevolence of each, to contribute a portion of time, his talents, and his means, to the advancement and prosperity of his fellow men. It gives combined power to individual effort, it unites the experience and knowledge of individuals, for the common good of the whole, it creates an identity of interest and harmony of action. It offers a stimulus for renewed enterprise and industry; by the attrition of mind brightens the intellect; and by an interchange of ideas and individual experience, it enlarges the field of operation, for the development of the means of human enjoyment and the elevation of human character.

But much as associated effort has achieved in our country, its task is just begun. Ours being a government, which, owing to its peculiar structure, renders the direct patronage and supervision of the objects of improvement in science, art, and industrial enterprise a matter of questionable—or perhaps, I ought rather to say, of *questioned*—policy; the greater is the responsibility resting on the citizen, the stronger the appeal to his benevolence and pride, to contribute his quota of influence, energy and wealth, in the advancement of any great movement, which promises to elevate the character of his country, or to enhance the prosperity and happiness of his fellow men. Ours also being a government, which recognises perfect equality, both social and political, among all classes—in which all are entitled to equal benefits under it, and subject to equal burdens in supporting it—there is no country, where associated enterprise, promises so much harmony and concert to all; where there is such a close identity of interests, where the call

upon every one is so loud, to aid in removing those obstacles to progress and improvement, which obstruct the prosperity of all alike ; and to diffuse blessings which must equally enure in common to all.

Among the great improvements on which the associated intellect and enterprise of the civilized world is now engaged ; agriculture and its hand-maid, the mechanic arts, so far as their objects and results are concerned, may be said to stand at the head. To advance and honor these great elements of national greatness, and human happiness, is the object of our association. For this we are assembled—and in the remarks I have made in reference to the nature and objects of associated effort, my purpose has been to show, that it is no mere holiday sport—no mere idle amusement, in which we are now engaged. 'Tis true, the occasion is well calculated to elicit the most exuberant feelings, the most pleasant hilarity, the most enticing amusement. But these are not the main primary objects of our association. They are flowers to be culled by the way side along our journey—but one ultimate aim is the advancement of our country's prosperity and power, the welfare and happiness of human kind. There is a deep philosophy in our aims. We are competitors in the great race in which the intellect and industry of the world are engaged ; in endeavoring to eliminate a still higher type of civilization, from the impulses and tendencies of the age, for those who are to come after us.

These annual Fairs and festivals, in honor of, and for the purpose of promoting agriculture and mechanical industry, though of but late origin, are destined to stamp the impress of their influence upon, and to mark an epoch in the history of, the moral, social, and political character of the age, more especially in this country. Their peculiar recommendation is, that they combine the useful with the agreeable. They impart instruction to the mind, whilst at the same time they minister to our pleasure, curiosity, and

hilarity through an innocent gratification of the senses.— But their chief excellence consists in exciting and stimulating, the nobler sentiments of our nature. They produce combination of mental effort upon a given subject ; and by an interchange of opinion and experience, they make available for the common good, the combined result of whatever may be useful and expedient in individual enterprise and ingenuity, in every portion of the land. They serve to impart most valuable information, in reference to the resources, productions, and industrial pursuits of different sections and localities—information so very indispensable to the political economist, the legislator, and historian—in the absence of statistical Bureaus, in which our country is lamentably deficient. It is hardly necessary to say, that they unburden the bosom of care, refresh the energies of our nature, and give us a relish for the manly, yet innocent amusements, which experience has proven to be necessary for the full development of man's noblest faculties. They exemplify the philosophy of Æsop, in his fable of the unbent bow—that, by occasional relaxation from the laborous duties of life, we are the better enabled to discharge those duties, when the hour of labor comes. The joyous greetings and radiant countenances of the thousands who surround me—honored as we are, with the presence of the fair wives and daughters of the land, whose presence ever bespeaks a tribute to the refining and ennobling feelings of the heart—proclaim in language far more eloquent than any I can use, that the present is not only a “feast of reason,” but also a “flow of soul.” What is better calculated to minister to a laudable curiosity, than an inspection of these implements of labor saving machinery, by which man has harnessed the very forces of nature, and made them obedient to his will? What is better calculated to excite emotions of high intellectual enjoyment, and to identify in the mind of the beholder the farmer's home with calm contentment and comfort and pleasure, than the sight of those noble and

highly improved animals in our stalls—whose beauty of form and docility of disposition are almost enough to make us converts to the doctrine of the author of “The vestiges of creation,” that every type of animal existence is the development of one still lower, produced by some fortuitous combination of elements in the great laboratory of nature.

But it is upon the moral and social relations of our people, that these Fairs, devoted to Agriculture and Mechanical industry, are calculated to exercise the most important influence. They bring us together, make us acquainted with each others’ advantages, wants, pursuits and feelings. They not only serve to convince us, that individual man is dependant on his kind for happiness—but that sections and localities, though diversified in pursuits and resources, are to a certain extent, dependent on each other, and identified in interest. A common bond of union is thus secured—a bond of union, stronger than one of statutes or parchments, because it is founded in kindness, good will, and affection; strengthened by associations of common pleasure and enjoyment, and annually renewed amid the greetings and congratulations of joy and gladness. What is better calculated to counteract selfishness, that great bane of the human heart, and to excite feelings of a generous benevolence, than this annual pilgrimage to our great festival; when every one comes prepared to contribute his offering of the fruits of his industry and experience, and to carry back in return the accumulated treasures of information and experience, contributed by all? What better calculated to do away with individual conceit and stubborn perseverance in error in all industrial pursuit; and to elicit respect and consideration for whatever is useful and good in others; than the evidence here afforded, of how puny is each one’s strength and wisdom, in comparison of those of the great whole; and of the opportunity here tendered of appropriating to his own use, the improvements and discoveries of the world around him? What is better designed to stimulate a laud-

able ambition to excel in industrial pursuits, than an exhibition of what others under no more favorable circumstances have achieved, by industry, care, labor, economy?—What is better designed to foster a noble and praise-worthy pride in the avocations of the farm or the workshop, than the tribute of praise and admiration, for the products of their labor, by friends and fellow countrymen—and the premiums awarded for the same? These premiums and diplomas are trophies of victory, won in the pursuits of peace, which are not to be estimated by dollars and cents, for money cannot buy them ; but title papers of usefulness and worth, in their day and generation, which their owners should preserve, and transmit as heir-looms to their children.

One of the happiest results, to be produced by these associations is the social revolution to be effected by the high position to which *labor* is to be elevated ; by investing it in the public mind, with that dignity to which it is justly entitled. So stubborn is the prejudice of habit, so hard is it to efface the associations of past history, that for centuries, manual labor has been identified with degradation and vulgarity. In the military governments that were established, from the very necessities of the times, or the ruins of the Roman Empire, and out of which originated the Feudal system, war was the great occupation of christendom. Out of the Church, mind was directed to its successful pursuit, either for conquest or defence. It was the only passport to honor and power, the only road to respectability. For several centuries, what are now known as “ the learned professions,” occupied an humble position in the social scale. Law, medicine and divinity were the targets at which literary humor and baronial merriment vented their jibes and sarcasms. The leech, the attorney and the priest, were associated with conceit, cunning, penuriousness, and the gratification of sensual appetites in well stored larders and well filled cellars. Merchandise was regarded as the calling of the ignoble and avaricious. And, although, in process

of time, these pursuits rose in dignity and importance; when violence yielded to law; when owing to a progressive civilization, the saving of life was regarded as more useful than destroying it; when the dissemination of a purer faith extorted the tribute of respect for its teachers; when the acquisition of wealth placed the means of luxury and enjoyment within the reach of its possessors—still, mere manual *labor*, honest, unpretending labor, agricultural and mechanical labor, has continued to languish in obscurity—the by-word of the fashionable and the idle—the scorn of the purse-proud and pretentious. But in this respect, a new æra is beginning to dawn upon the world. The last quarter of a century has done more to revolutionize public sentiment on this subject, than the eighteen centuries preceding, since the commencement of the christian æra. The diffusion of intelligence, the operations of commerce, and the utilitarian tendency of the age, are beginning to teach mankind that labor is the source of all wealth and prosperity, the means of individual comfort and luxury, the basis of national strength and greatness. When we reflect that the object of our association is to enlarge the field of operation for labor, to secure to labor the rewards of its toil, to stimulate it to still greater exertions, and to enable it to accomplish the greatest results by economising its powers; it is evident that the effect must be to dignify, honor and elevate labor. It is the laborer, especially, that we invite and welcome to our brotherhood. In our own country, above all others, labor must be destined soonest to reach its proper position. Our institutions recognise no distinctions in industrial pursuits. The road to honor, to wealth and to power are open to all alike. The framers of our institutions were true to the teachings of a past history. Not only the soldiers who fought our revolutionary battles, but many of their heroic leaders were laboring men, artizans, and mechanics. Washington was a land-surveyor, Greene was a blacksmith, Wayne was a laboring farmer, Morgan

was a waggon-driver. Our government, then, in its organic structure, has done for labor all it could. It is for voluntary association, then, to elevate labor in the social scale. I am pandering to no spirit of political socialism when I say that I have long thought society needed a radical reformation in regard to the estimate placed on labor. Why should the laboring man be excluded from the saloons of fashion, the hospitable board of the wealthy, the companionship of the great—I mean merely *because* he is a laboring man? Why is it that the young man who returns home from College with an education secured by the economical savings of an industrious father, thinks it beneath his dignity to assist that father in the routine of his domestic occupations? or, the young lady, whose “accomplishments” have been paid for by the self-denial of an indulgent mother, thinks it a reproach to aid that mother in the discharge of the duties of a diligent house-wife? It is because public opinion is all wrong in associating labor with degradation. Why is this? Labor is the first great law of nature. Nature herself is a great workshop where change, renovation and development are constantly going on. Inspiration tells us that the great Author of all things “rested from his labors” on the seventh day. The Redeemer of the world was known as “the carpenter’s son,” and it is thought by most biblical critics that he worked at the same trade until he entered on his great ministerial mission. The great apostle of the Gentiles was a tent-maker; and all the wisdom received at the feet of Gamaliel did not make him ashamed of his calling. And yet, strange to say, how many are there who profess the religion of the Savior and his apostles, who think it degrading to associate, even around the altar, with artisans and laborers, whose very hands may have reared the temple in which they worship. How little do the sons and daughters of extravagance, of luxury and of ease, reflect, that after all, it is to the mechanic, the artisan, the laborer, that they are indebted for the means of their enjoyment—and on the

poor pittance of wages received, and the pangs of penury and want endured, by those to whose toil ingenuity and skill they are indebted, for the sumptuous viands with which they regale their appetites, or the costly habiliments in which they deck their persons. The purse-proud coxcomb who treads on downy carpets does not reflect that they are the product of the loom of the humble weaver—fashioned into beauty and softness, by his industrious hand, whilst his children are crying around him for bread. The gay and heartless female votary of fashion, who identifies labor with vulgarity, does not reflect that the costly gossamer tracery of laces and needle-work, in which she flaunts through the purlieus of dissipation, were wrought in some lonely garret by fingers attenuated with want, in hurried moments, divided betwixt the exactions of a cruel task-master, and the attentions upon a dying parent on a bed of straw. This is no sketch of fancy, it is stubborn fact.

I wish not to be misunderstood. It is not to be expected, or desired that intellect shall fraternize with ignorance or virtue with vice. A natural incongruity forbids such association. Public opinion needs no reformation in this respect. But the reformation which is needed, and which we are led to hope, is silently working its way, is this—that the pursuits of honest labor shall no longer be a bar to the highest social position; and a stimulus thus given to the laboring man for the cultivation of his intellect, and development for the common good, of mental resources that might otherwise remain dormant; and by holding out to him the rewards of virtue, the paths of vice and dissipation may be shunned. These annual festivals of agricultural and mechanical industry, are working a powerful, though imperceptible moral influence in this respect. For the time being, they break down all the artificial barriers with which man has hedged in his lordly self. Our honors and rewards are to the most worthy. *Honor digniori* should be our motto. We have no use for drones in our hive. In-

dustry and labor are the elements of our success. If we are to effect any thing for the good of our country, or the welfare of our fellow-men, it must be through the agency of these great sources of human good.

It is not my purpose to attempt any thing like a practical essay upon the details of a proper method of cultivating the soil, or the other kindred pursuits that appertain to rural life. I think it would be unsuited to the occasion. We have assembled for the purpose of receiving instruction through the eye, rather than the ear. The fever of feeling is too intense, the pulse of excitement is too high, to tolerate any thing like a detailed routine of agricultural improvement, or farm husbandry. Every latitude, climate and soil have their own peculiar systems of detail; and in North Carolina, we have but too lately waked up to the importance of systematic agricultural improvement, to have any special established data, for the benefit of those who may desire practical information. For the present, we have to rely on those general principles, which time and experience have proven to be applicable to all soils and climates—adapting them to our peculiar condition, as best we may. From the results of that adaptation, it is our aim and object, to develope information for the benefit of those who may succeed us. Besides, I have too lately entered on my noviciate in this great and noble pursuit, to presume to give instruction to many whom I see around me, of whom I would fain aspire to be an humble follower. I am here to learn rather than to teach. And if I were to attempt any thing like practical information, I should have to resort to sources equally in reach of you all—to the recorded achievements and experience of the great pioneers of agriculture in other lands. This knowledge a few shillings will procure, where established facts and settled principles that have undergone the closest investigation, in the closet of the student, the crucible of the chemist and the experience of the practical farmer, are embodied in language, far more sim-

ple and happy than any at my command. If I were disposed to attempt a display of agricultural learning, I might, it is true, urge on you the importance of thorough draining; but then, I shou'd only be asserting what is now an established principle in agriculture; and in attempting to prove that every drop of water, more than nature requires for the growth of vegetation, is poisonous to the soil, my language would be dull and tiresome, compared with the glowing accounts in which agricultural writers speak of the smiling fields, and luxuriant harvests in England and Scotland, and some parts of our own country; where for centuries had stagnated muddy pools and sodden wastes. I might descant on the importance of deep plowing and thorough pulverization of the soil; yet how common place would my remarks be, compared with the views of the agricultural chemist, who proves on philosophical principles, that the rationale of this consists in enabling light heat and the constituent elements of the atmosphere the better to penetrate to the roots of plants, for whose nourishment and growth they are indispensable.

I might speak of the benefits of a rotation of crops and the importance of a more extensive root culture; but to you it would be far more edifying to learn from standard works on agriculture, that every specimen of the vegetable creation, like every department of organised life, feeds upon its own peculiar food—and consequently, a constant succession of the same crop, will ultimately exhaust the soil of some component element, indispensable to its productive power. I might speak of the importance of cultivating the grasses, both as an element of national wealth, and of permanent improvement; but why do this, when it is known to you that the hay crop of this country is second in value to the cotton crop only—when it is a well known fact that the greater the advancement of agricultural improvement in every country, the greater is the importance attached to the cultivation of grasses—and when it is still further

known, to our reproach, that eastern North Carolina annually pays to the northern States, hundreds of thousands of dollars, for the article of hay alone. I might urge the importance of cultivating less land, and of devoting our energies to its more thorough improvement; but my language would be far less impressive, than the rural beauty which has often greeted your vision when traveling through the northern States of this Union; where handsome cottages, a plenteous board, smiling faces, and happy homes, constitute the wealth, and minister to the happiness of the owners of but a few acres, every foot of which is in a high state of fertility, devoted to some useful purpose, and yielding an abundant reward for their labor. I might insist on the necessity of manure, as a means of restoring and improving the soil; and on this point I presume, I should have less misgiving and prejudice to encounter, than on any other. This was, no doubt, the first movement ever made in agricultural science; and for thousands of years, continued to be the only one. The luxuriant vegetation following the accidental incorporation of manure with the soil, suggested itself to the senses, without the process of rational deduction. The importance of manure, as necessary to vigor of growth, and a sure return in fruit time, comes down to us sanctified by the moral teaching of the parable. The life of the barren figtree was besought and spared for one more year, till man should do his duty, in applying to it, the elements of fertility. The present condition of England, where in the last hundred years, the average of the wheat crop has been increased from an average of 12 to one of 24 bushels per acre, and in many districts to 50 or 60 bushels—of Massachusetts, where a soil, naturally barren and rugged, has been so subdued and improved as to support one of the most wealthy and powerful communities on the earth—afford a more eloquent and convincing argument, in favor of carefully preserving and restoring to the soil, the elements of manure, than language can utter or

pen can write. As to the best means of preparing it, and method of applying it—that belongs rather to the laboratory of the chemist, than the rostrum of the orator. I might dilate on the importance of lime, which both theory and experience have established to be the great basis of all permanent agricultural improvement; but why attempt this, when the immortal work of Ruffin, one of the great public benefactors of his time, on calcareous manures, has in a plain and practical style, unfolded, not only treasures of knowledge, but mines of wealth, the existence of which were not dreamt of a few years since.

And so in regard to the entire catalogue of all branches of agricultural knowledge; if I were to presume to give instruction, I should fall far short of what may be obtained in any good agricultural journal, or the countless works of standard authority, which are daily issuing from the press, in supply of the demand for agricultural knowledge. It is not the difficulty of obtaining information, that is the bar to our progress. It is the difficulty of removing long cherished prejudice and ancient habit, of appreciating the wonderful progress in industrial enterprise that is in operation in the world around us, of awaking to the importance of availing ourselves of the vast stores of knowledge, that science and experience are daily bringing to light; of arousing a laudable ambition among our people to enlist as competitors in the great race of progressive improvement—these are all that is necessary to make our State one of the most prosperous, wealthy, and happy communities on earth. If I could be the humble instrument of stimulating your pride as North Carolinians; of impressing you with a sense of the high and honorable position you occupy, as the tillers of the soil; the influence you should exercise, in the moral, social, and political scale; the responsibility resting on you, in elevating the character of your country, and in diffusing the means of prosperity and happiness among your fellow-men; and the rights and privileges to which you are

entitled under the government, as the great controlling and conservative element in our institutions, and the duty you owed to yourselves in asserting and maintaining them—if I could do this, I should feel that I had accomplished my task as the organ of the feelings and sentiments evoked by the occasion, in a manner honorable to myself and beneficial to my countrymen. But the theme is so vast, embracing so many interests, teeming with so many grand associations, as well moral as practical, that whilst I am overwhelmed with a grateful sense of the honor assigned me; I am appalled by the conviction of my inability to do justice to the subject and the occasion.

It is our good fortune, to live in an age of wonderful invention, of startling discovery, of astounding scientific development. It is emphatically the age of rapid progressive improvement. The striking peculiarity of the knowledge of the age, is its direction and application to useful and practical ends; in ministering to the necessities, the comforts and luxuries of man. In fact, it is the demand for that species of knowledge, that is whetting invention, stimulating ingenuity, and taxing intellect for its mightiest achievements. Geology, mineralogy, chemistry, botany, zoology, and natural philosophy, are not now cultivated, as the mere avocations of intellectual research, or to satisfy the philosopher's abstract thirst for knowledge; but as the instruments by which man is to subdue the material world to his control, and apply the immutable laws of nature, to the satisfying his wants. A minute knowledge and classification of primeval rocks, from the disintegration of which the soil is composed—the deductions arrived at from an acquaintance with the various strata and fossil deposits of the crust of the earth—an examination of the constituent elements of all material nature, their relations affinities and repulsions for each other—an acquaintance with the structure and vegetable physiology of plants and trees and flowers; and the principle of their growth, decay and reproduction—an under-

standing of the peculiarities, habits, and capacities of animals, whether of the higher type or of crawling insects—the study of those laws of motion, and physical forces, by which Infinite wisdom governs the boundless universe—all these branches of knowledge are now pursued with a vigor and tenacity, unknown to the votary of ancient learning, and to answer the purposes of practical utility. They are made to serve the purposes, and direct the course of the miner in his search for mineral treasures in the bowels of the earth; and in ransacking the coal-fields which nature has laid aside in her great store-house for the use of man, after the forests have fallen before a redundant population. They afford data, by which the physician is enabled to minister to human suffering; by which the manufacturer imparts the tints of beauty to his fabrics; by which the cutler tempers the edge of the implement of labor. They direct the engineer as he drives his car careering over the land—or propels his ship against wind and current.

It is to agriculture especially, that all these great departments of knowledge are coming to serve as handmaids.—And it is a little remarkable, that agriculture, the oldest of human pursuits, the basis and support of every other branch of industry, should be indebted for its late wonderful advancement to the developments of other sciences; whilst their practical application requires materials furnished by agriculture alone. Mineralogy and geology teach the agriculturist the crude elements of which his soil is composed, and consequently, its peculiar adaptation to what may be most remunerative to his labor. Chemistry teaches him the component qualities of various branches of the vegetable kingdom, and the peculiar properties of various manures; that he may conform his crop to the natural capacity of the soil; or by artificial means, apply those sources of fertility, in which the soil is deficient. Botany teaches him the constitution and character of the cereal grains, as well as of trees and flowers; and thus enables him to aid their growth, and

protect them against their natural enemies, by industry and care. Zoology teaches him the peculiarities, instincts, habits, organic structure, useful qualities, and evil propensities, of brutes, birds, and insects; by which he may improve his stock, increase the size, beauty, docility, and vigor, of those noble domestic animals, so indispensable to man's comfort and profitable labor—and then again, to guard against the ravages of the insect tribe, so annoying, and frequently so destructive to the farmer's hopes. Natural philosophy teaches him the laws of winds and storms and rain, and frost; by which he may adjust his labor, regulate his "seed-time and harvest," according to the operations of nature. To descend a little to detail, a perfect construction of the plow involves a strick conformity with the principles of curves and angles; that friction may be lessened, and motive power increased. The proper method of cutting a ditch, requires some knowledge of the laws of hydrostatics. What a field is here presented to the ambition of the farmer! The whole domain of human knowledge is not too broad for his research. Systematic agriculture, though yet in its infancy, has is fast attaining its proper position by the side of its sister sciences. The farmer is at last within reach of that dignified position to which his calling entitles him, if he will only exert his strength and power in securing it. When we reflect on the importance of agriculture to the prosperity of a State, and on the great advantages of science and learning, to those who are engaged in its pursuits, who shall say they are not necessary for the farmer? Who shall continue still longer to confound agriculture with the habitual and laborous routine of the drudge? I am aware of the prejudice with many against "book-farming," as it is called. And at the time this prejudice was first excited, I am inclined to think there was some reason for it. It was an attempt to adapt the culture of other countries, with different soil in different climates, for the supply of a people with different wants, because it met with remunerating

profits there. But it is science that has exposed the fallacy of such book-farming as this. Because turnips and beans and hops are of the most profitable crops in England, is no reason why they should be so here. Because blue-grass is so valuable a crop in the limestone region of Kentucky, is no reason why we should exhaust our energies in trying to establish its general culture in North Carolina. Such errors as these, such book-farming as this, it is the purpose of scientific agriculture to point out.

Agriculture, though so long regarded as the calling of the ignorant and the lowly, is invested with more interesting historical associations, than any other human pursuit. Although, on account of the disobedience of our first parents, the ground was cursed to the bringing forth thorns and thistles, and man condemned to "eat bread in the sweat of his face;" yet, what was imposed by divine justice as a punishment for sin, was tempered in divine mercy to his comfort and happiness, upon the condition of labor and industry. It was "to till the ground," that Adam was sent forth from the garden of Eden. We are told by the same authority, that the second great progenitor of mankind, "Noah, was a husbandman, and planted a vineyard."—That agriculture was a divine institution, a blessing granted by divine beneficence, is a prevailing idea in the religious impressions of almost every people. The Nile was personified in the Egyptian mind as entitled to divine honors; and the worship of Apis, under the form of an ox, typified their veneration for the plow. Among the ancient Greeks the festival of the Thesmophoria, as it was called, was annually celebrated in honor of Ceres, the goddess of agriculture; and was intended to commemorate the introduction of the laws and the regulations of civilized life, which were attributed to Ceres—thus typifying agriculture as the basis of civilization. Among the ancient Romans the decrees of the Senate were deposited for safer keeping in the temple of Ceres—as a token of their faith, that a sound and pros

perous agriculture was the best guaranty of obedience to the laws and the preservation of the State. The "feast of Tabernacles" among the Jews, was a festival of thanksgiving, for the ingathering of the harvest. The Hindoo husbandman offers at the feet of his idol a portion of his newly-gathered harvest; and the green-corn dance of the North-America Indian, has its origin in the crude religious sentiment of this child of nature in the wilderness. Agriculture is the first industrial pursuit of man, after ceasing his nomad state and settling in a fixed habitation. Food being the first and most indispensable of human wants; and man having to rely upon the earth for a supply of food, as soon as he has abandoned the pastoral state; of course the cultivation of the soil becomes the first and most universal of human pursuits. It must of necessity, therefore, be coeval with civilization, and its chief element of strength. Next to supplying his wants in appeasing his hunger, follows the necessity of houses in which to shelter against the inclemencies of the weather; barns to hold his grain, improved implements to till the soil; mills to grind his corn, and utensils to cook his food; and thus the mechanic arts follow as the adjuncts of agriculture, in ministering to his comforts. The exchange of his surplus products for those of his neighbors, gives rise to barter, as a means of obtaining luxuries; and thus arises commerce. The possession of property creates the necessity for some standard of value, and thus originates money. The acquisition of wealth, and the consequent enjoyment of liesure, contentment and ease, superinduce reflection; in looking upon the operations of nature around him, he is led to enquire into the causes of things—and thus grow up science, learning, and the cultivation of the moral sentiments. In his efforts to embody his abstract idea of the beautiful and the good, originate the potile arts, statuary, painting, architecture. And so on through the entire routine of all the industrial and ornamental pursuits that mark the highest and most refined

civilization. We find agriculture is the base of this vast column, whose calminating point pierces the very heavens.

Political economists are in the habit of specifying agriculture, commerce and manufactures, as the three great elements of national prosperity and greatness. Yet, important as are manufactures and commerce in the development of national strength, valuable aids as they are to the promotion of agricultural improvement; they are entirely dependant on agriculture, not only for their prosperity, but for their very existence. The earth is the great storehouse from which are originally derived the raw materials of manufacturing skill; and agricultural labor is the agent that supplies them to the workshop. It is the application of science to agricultural improvement, by which the labor of a part is made to supply the means of subsistence to the whole; and thus the manufacturer is fed, whilst fashioning the rude products of the agriculturist into the elements of comfort and luxury at home, or preparing them for the markets of distant lands. And so in regard to commerce. The more a nation produces, beyond its wants, the more it has to give in exchange for the products of other countries.—The fewer of its population, that, by means of agricultural skill, are enabled to supply food for the whole, the more can be spared and profitably employed, in manufacturing its products into articles of merchandise for foreign markets. The medium of this interchange and traffic are the ships of commerce. And here again, the very means of their construction and equipment, and the subsistence of those employed in their propulsion, are supplied by agricultural labor. History and experience have proven the truth of the application of this principle to countries, even where the precious metals were most abundant. Nature never, even in the most highly-favored regions, bestows her bounties so freely, as to enable man to enjoy them, without some effort of labor. And so indispensable is the pursuit of agriculture to training man to habits of industry—so insignifi-

cant are the most successful labors of the rude gold-dust seeker, in companion with the vast stores of agricultural wealth, with which the earth teems; that in those counties where the mountains are filled with gold, commerce frequently languishes and dies, and poverty and ignorance prevail, for the want of an equivalent to pay for the products of other climes. Look to South-America for example. Her mountains glitter with the precious metals—and yet, with the agricultural resources, according to the accounts of recent explorers, in the valleys of the Oronoco, the Amazon and the La-Plata, not surpassed by those of the Mississippi; her States are without commerce, without manufactures, torn to pieces, by intestine factions. Look again to Russia, with her vastness of extent and power of numbers. Startling as at first sight, appear the Czar's wonderful annual resources, from the Ural mines; yet, he can not go through one military campaign without resorting to the markets of Europe for a loan. And so trifling is the commerce of that vast empire, that a close blockage of her almost entire sea-coast, by England and France, at the present time, is scarcely felt in its effects upon the great commercial relations of the world. Why is this? It is because her agricultural resources constitute so insignificant a portion of the, marketable wealth of the world. It is because, there, labor is degrading, agriculture is identified with servitude, the farmer has never yet waked up to the dignity of his calling. The history of the past has proven that, as agriculture has declined, man has retrograded towards his primordial state of barbarism. Look at Palestine—a small territory, which, in the days of her early Kings, was able to send 700,000 fighting men into the field, is now scarcely able to supply the wants of the roving Arabs that encamp upon its plains. Destroy agricultural improvement—that improvement which grows two blades of grass where nature produced but one—which enables one man's labor to supply the food for two—and the sound of the loom, the

hammer and the anvil will no longer keep music in the valley, or the blast of the forge be heard on mountainside.

Commerce has done for the Atlantic, and is fast doing for the Pacific, what Xerxes, with an army of three millions could not do for the Hellespont—bridged it for the transit of nations—for an exodus of races—Anglo-Saxon, Celt, and Slave, far exceeding in magnitude that of the Israelites to the promised land. Yes, Commerce has at last made the circuit of the globe; in its vocation of interchanging the products of the field and the workshop, among distant lands, it has converted all nations where productive labor is encouraged, into one great brotherhood; and is fast teaching mankind, that it is by pursuing the arts of peace, and cultivating relations of amity and kindness, that the wants of man both moral and physical, can be best subserved. Let us suppose for a moment the earth should refuse, for one short year to reward the toil of the husbandman, and gaunt famine stalk through the land. The dependence of all other branches of industry on agriculture, would then be felt in its most awful import. The busy hum of industry, in mill and workshop would give place to the quiet of desolation—nature would soon pave the streets of cities with grass—and ships and wharves rot in ruin together.

One of the most striking manifestations of the industrial enterprise of the age is in the struggle man is now engaged in, with the obstacles presented by nature—in opening channels of communication, in laying down the pathways of trade and commerce, in pioneering the way for the iron rail and steam-engine. The vast stores of the Incas of Peru dwindle into insignificance compared with the hundreds of millions that have been expended in these monuments of human industry in the United States, in England, in France; and their march is onward towards the steppes of Asia. In their construction man has achieved victories over the elements, of which Archimides never dreamt. It was the boast of Napoleon, that whilst Hannibal had seal-

ed the Alps, he had turned then—but the engineer has done more than either of these great conquerors; he has tunnelled them, not for the march of desolating armies, but for the transit of the products of the pursuits of peace—for the conveyance of the traveller in comfort and safety, beneath the roaring avalanche above his head. And what are railroads, but the veins and arteries, through which the products of agriculture, either in their crude state or as fashioned in the workshop, circulate; in seeking the markets of commerce? Whist! railroads are dependent upon the products of agriculture, yet the two are inseparably identified in interest. They act and reach on each other. It is upon the productions of the field and the workshop, that the railroad must rely for the materials of freight, the very means of subsistence—but then again, the construction of the railroad, by the benefits conferred, in contiguity to market, cheapening the cost of transportation, increased convenience in procuring the comforts and luxuries of life, affords a stimulus to the land-owner, to improve his land to its highest capability of production; and as the products of the land are increased, the railroad finds increased employment, and enhanced profits. This is no mere theory. Experience has every where proven it to be true. It is a mistake then to suppose—a mistake which the farmers of North Carolina indulged in for many years, to an almost fatal extent—that it is the speculator and the capitalist, who are principally intertered in the construction of railroads, and the advancement of internal improvement. Until within a very few years, the farmers of this state supposed, and demagogues found it to their interest to foster the delusion, that the only *interest* the farmer had in works of internal improvement was the *interest* on the State debt caused by their construction. But the diffusion of intelligence, and the teachings of experience have proven, that productive labor, after supplying the producer's immediate wants, are valueless, without markets in which to sell; and that markets are valueless, without the means of reaching them.

Whilst the objects of our association, mainly appertain to agricultural improvement and cultivation, as the basis of all industrial enterprise ; yet it embraces within its scope, the entire domain of productive labor, invention and skill. The development of all our resources—of the field, the orchard, and the garden—the arts whether useful or ornamental—the forests, the mines, or the fisheries—the encouragement of every branch of human industry, calculated to enhance the wealth and character of the State, and to add to the means of human comfort and happiness—the development of the highest efforts of the human mind in economizing, and giving still greater efficiency to labor—all these grand and noble aims come within the province of our organization. One of the great agents in solving the industrial problem of the age, is the application of steam to the mechanic arts, and to the removal of the barriers to the progress of commerce. The mighty revolution effected by the use of steam, for a time, alarmed political economists with the fear, that such an augmentation of the powers of labor, would leave millions unemployed, or by rendering them unable to compete with that skill which employed the elements, instead of human hands, leave them to starve.—But experience has proven the groundlessness of these apprehensions. Time has demonstrated, that the greater the improvements in labor-saving machinery, the more the forces of nature are rendered subservient to human control ; the more extended are the means of human comfort, and the cheaper do they become of acquisition. So vast is the great store-house of nature's productions and powers ; so surely does one great discovery in science or art pioneer the way for another ; that the supply of one want creates the demand for another—the economizing of labor in one department of industry, opens still wider fields for its employment in others. The invention of the cotton-gin and the power-loom have felled millions of acres of forest, and covered mountain-sides with flocks of sheep ; and thus given

employment to thousands of hands, and investment to millions of capital, which Whitney and Jacquard, never contemplated or dreamt of. The planing machine (which may well be mentioned as among the great improvements of the age,) is likely to give a value to our forests, and a demand for labor in developing their resources, which never entered into the imagination of Woodworth. The invention of the reaping machine may for a time, interfere with the avocations of the few, who wield the scythe or the sickle; but it promises employment to thousands, in the millions of acres, which the facility of the harvest will appropriate to the cereal grains.

The wonderful inventions in economising labor, which mark the present age—especially in the application of steam power—are making a slow but lasting impression on the political, as well as social and moral organization of christendom. In our own free country, they find the proper theatre for their full development; here they find ample scope and verge for their operation; and here they are soonest destined to yield their ripest fruits. There is something in the very atmosphere of freedom, that braces the human nerves for a conflict with the elements—and the consciousness of political equality stimulates genius to its grandest efforts. Emperors, and Kings, and Popes, Principalities and Powers, Thrones and Dominions, are true to their hereditary and despotic instincts, true to the warning instruction of a sound philosophy; when they look with distrust and misgiving, upon the progress of science and the useful arts, which teach man the dignity of his nature—upon the efforts of genius, which ignores all social caste and political inequality—upon the victory of mind over the material world, which tells them, this is a conquest more difficult, than the breaking of sceptres or the overthrow of thrones. There is something in the very sight calculated to warm up the fever of the blood, to whet the edge of the nerves, to awaken man to the dignity of his nature, and the

high destiny of his mission ; as he looks at the steam-engine, snorting over the land, or the steamer bellowing over the waves. It is progress personified, it suggests disregard for the old landmarks of opinion, it gives the impulse to *movement*. When Luther sounded the tocsin of the Reformation in the streets of Wittenburg, its echoes waked the slumbers of ignorance and superstition throughout the christian world ; when the Bastile fell in 1789, it jarred the social fabric of christendom ; but the whistle of the steam engine speaks to priestcraft and despotism in a voice more full of warning, than all the blood shed during the 30 years war, or all the victims sacrificed to the Demon of faction, during the French Revolution. As a free people, blessed with free institutions, whose "manifest destiny," I believe it is, to subdue a continent, carry civilization, liberty, law, and the Protestant religion to the Pacific, to the isles of the sea, to the shores of Japan and China, across the plains of Asia, and thus perform the circuit of the globe—it is a part of our high mission to honor, encourage and promote the application of genius to, and the economising of labor in, the useful arts ; as a great agent in civilizing the world, in disseminating the blessings of freedom, and in propagating the doctrines of a pure christian faith.

I have said that the means of intelligence were within our reach—intelligence to enable us to avoid the errors of the past, and to avail ourselves of the improvements of the present and the future. An agricultural journal, devoted to the elucidation of general principles, and their application to our peculiar position, is indispensable to every practical farmer. Such a paper we have in our State, ("The Farmer's Journal")—a journal gotten up and sustained in the outset, as I well know, with great labor and expense ; and even now, not supported as it should be. This paper is a North Carolina paper, it originated in North Carolina enterprise, is devoted to North Carolina interests, and must rely on North Carolina pride for support. It would be a

reproach to our State and our association, to allow it to fail. It is with due defence, then, that I would beg leave to appeal to the pride and public spirit of our association, and of our people here assembled, to sustain and support it. Even now, in its infancy, it compares favorably with the best Southern agricultural journals; but by increased patronage we shall strengthen and stimulate its conductors to make it a still more useful vehicle of information—a journal of which every North Carolina farmer shall feel proud.

When we look abroad, and take a survey of the industrial enterprise of the world; its influence upon the destiny of our race; and the prospects and promises held out by the future—we have cause, not only to be proud of our country, but to thank Heaven, that we can lay claim to a title no less to be prized, than was that of the Roman, in the palmiest days of his country's glory, that of AMERICAN CITIZEN.—We have a country extending over 24 degrees of latitude, and 54 degrees of longitude—suited to the cultivation of almost every product known to agricultural wealth; with a commercial marine, second to that of Great Britain alone, and promising soon to exceed that; with manufactures in all the *useful* arts equal to those of any country, and making rapid progress in the *ornamental* also; with a literature, which, for a nation in its infancy, is unsurpassed, and which is extorting the reluctant tribute of admiration from the most rigid cities of Europe; with mountains and rivers, and lakes and prairies, whose vastness and grandeur excite feelings of sublimity and poetic awe; with the language of Shakspeare, and Milton, and Bacon; with the law of Coke and Mansfield, and Blackstone; with the religion of Luther, and Crammer, and Whitfield, and Wesley; with arms not only hallowed by the blood of revolutionary martyrs, but illustrated since, by the glories of a Perry and McDonough on the water, and of a Scott, a Jackson and a Taylor on the land—situated in the great high-way between Europe and Eastern Asia—the seat of those vast stores of commercial

wealth, which for centuries it has been the object of commerce to reach by the shortest route—is it a dream of fancy to suppose, that in the designs of Providence, we are the destined agent for civilizing the world?

To come nearer home, as North Carolinians, we have no cause to feel ashamed, but rather to feel proud of the position we occupy, in the great drama now being enacted on the theatre of christian civilization. So far as the past is concerned, in patriotic sacrifice, in devotion to our free institutions, in conservative regard for law and order, in veneration for the Union of the States, and in the cultivation of the private virtues that adorn and dignify human nature—all is secure. Our past history may not have been so much emblazoned by the imposing and the grand; but in every thing that implies a heroic devotion to the useful, the true, and the good, there is no community on earth that can more safely defy the impression of history's pen. In all the resources of industrial enterprize and wealth, whether agricultural, mechanical or commercial, I hazard nothing in saying, that there is no territory of similar extent in this broad Union, possessing superior advantages. Situated midway between the chilling frosts of the North and the scorching heat of the South, we are in a great measure free from the disadvantages of either; whilst our temperate climate enables us to avail ourselves of what is most profitable in both. For the great staple of Indian corn, every portion of our State is peculiarly adapted. For the staple of tobacco there is a tier of counties on our Northern border, which grow tobacco as profitably, and of as fine quality, as any portion of the United States. Our midland and Southern counties produce cotton abundantly, and as a remenative crop. 1500 pounds per acre is a common yield, not only in Edgecombe, but in Hertford. Wheat has long been successfully grown in almost every portion of the State—and the improvements now going on in the renovation of our lands, promise to soon make our State one of the finest wheat-growing regions

of the Union. Rice is a great staple in some of our South-eastern counties—and there are thousands of acres of our Eastern swamps, now awaiting the hand of industry to convert them from stagnant wastes, into waving rice fields. Rye and oats, and peas and beans find in North Carolina a soil and climate particularly adapted to their growth. There is not a finer country in the same latitude for the production of hay, and consequently for the rearing of fine stock, than the vast Piedmont region, extending from Raleigh west to the Blue Ridge. The census returns show that flax is produced in North Carolina, to an extent I had not supposed—whilst our fertile mountain slopes, under a temperate sky, offer to the sheep raiser and wool-producer advantages no where exceeded in the world. The pea-nut crop, trivial as it may appear to some, is worth hundreds of thousands of dollars; showing that the barren wastes of sand in our South-eastern counties, contain vast resources of wealth, awaiting only the hand of labor for their development. The resources of our forests are almost incalculable—and they are peculiar to North Carolina. The naval stores, and ship timber, and sawed lumber of our pine forests, the staves of our oak forests, and the shingles of our cypress and juniper swamps, give employment to tens of thousands of laborers—and their fertile soil is only awaiting the hand of the farmer, to be converted into luxuriant fields, as soon as the huge forest growth is removed. Our mineral resources far exceed those of any other State of the Union, except California. Our gold mines are not worked by roving adventurers in search of alluvial dust—but by invested capital, paying good wages to the laborer, and realizing good dividends to the capitalist.

Our coal mines have passed through the ordeal of scientific scrutiny—their wealth is incalculable, and they only await the completion of those improvements necessary for their transit to market, to pour their rich treasures into the great store-house of North Carolina wealth. Our copper mines

equal in richness those of Wisconsin, and it is no uncommon sight in the streets of Raleigh, to see the miners of Cornwall wending their way to their caverns. The bowels of our mountains teem with the finest iron ore in the world—endless in quantity, tough and malleable as that of Sweden, in quality. Our manufacturing facilities are not exceeded by those of any country on earth. All our rivers and their tributaries have the finest water power, that ever tumbled over cascade, or leapt down mountain-side—and that too in regions blessed with health and fine air—with the richest ore at hand—and a fertile soil contiguous to supply the wants, and furnish the means of subsistence, to a manufacturing population.

An examination of the last census statistics, in reference to agricultural products, will exhibit results, astonishing to our own people, in regard to our resources, and productive industry. I have taken the trouble to prepare a comparative table* of the agricultural products of North Carolina, and those of Virginia and South Carolina, the two States contiguous, on our Northern and Southern border—whose wittings and up-starts have been in the habit of jeering us with

*				
		VIRGINIA.	N. CAROLINA.	S. CAROLINA.
Ag. population		1,421,661	869,039	668,507
Cotton	bales	3,947	73,845	300,901
Tobacco	lbs.	56,803,227	11,984,786	74,285
Flax	"	1,000,450	593,796	333
Wool	"	2,860,765	970,738	487,233
Rice	"	17,154	5,465,868	159,930,613
Butter	"	11,089,359	4,146,290	2,981,850
Hay	tons	369,098	145,652	20,925
Wheat	bushels	11,212,616	2,130,102	1,066,277
Oats	"	10,179,144	4,052,078	2,322,155
Indian Corn	"	35,254,319	27,941,051	16,271,454
Peas and Beans	"	521,579	1,584,252	1,026,900
Home made manufact's	\$	2,156,312	2,086,522	902,525
Number of Churches .		2,383	1,795	1,182
Church accommodati'ns		856,435	572,924	460,450
Children at School . .		109,775	100,108	40,373

our poverty and ignorance, even since the days of the revolution. I find the aggregate population of the three States to be as follows :

Virginia,	-	-	1,421,661
North Carolina,	-	-	869,039
South Carolina,	-	-	668,507

thus showing that the population of Virginia is nearly double, and that of South Carolina about three-fourth that of North Carolina. In the great staple of cotton, 'tis true South Carolina far exceeds us, her production being 300,000 bales ; but not as much as we do Virginia—our product being 73,000 bales, and Virginia 3,000. In tobacco, Virginia greatly exceeds us, her product being 56,000,000 pounds ; but not as far as we exceed South Carolina—our product being 11,000,000, and South Carolina 74,000 pounds. In wheat again Virginia is ahead of us, her product being 11,000,000 bushels—but we are far in advance of South Carolina in proportion to population, our product being 2,000,000 and South Carolina 1,000,000 bushels. In Rice South Carolina excels us greatly—she producing 159,000,000 pounds, and North Carolina producing 5,000,000 pounds. Virginia produces scarcely any. In butter and hay, and oats, Virginia exceeds us but little, whilst we far surpass South Carolina.—In Flax and Wool our comparative product is about equal to Virginia, and far in advance of South Carolina. In Indian Corn, peas and beans, we greatly excel Virginia, and immeasurably surpass South Carolina. But taking all these agricultural products together, in all these States, and we find that whilst in proportion to population, we are nearly equal to Virginia, we are far ahead of South Carolina. And taking the aggregate products of the three, our comparative portion is in advance of either of them. This is no mere gasconade—figures prove it to be true.

And then let it be recollected, that in taking the census, no account was taken of our naval stores, our lumber and ship timber, our staves and shingles, and mines and fisheries,

all of which constitute a portion of the production, wealth and resources of the State, and which peculiarly belong to North Carolina. Add these, and the annual product of the industrial wealth of North Carolina far exceeds that of either Virginia or South Carolina; with all the tobacco and wheat, the great staples of the farmer, and the cotton and rice, the great staples of the latter.

But I have not done yet. The same census returns show, that while the annual value of the home made manufactures in North Carolina amount to \$2,086,522—those of Virginia are \$2,156,312, and those of South Carolina \$902,525—showing that North Carolina in proportion to population, is far ahead of either. The census tables exhibit an equally flattering picture in regard to our provision for the intellectual and moral culture of our people. Whilst in North Carolina we have 1,795 churches, with church accommodations for 572,924 people; in Virginia, with nearly twice our population, they have but 2,383 churches with accommodations for but 856,435, and in South Carolina, 1,182 churches and accommodations for 460,450. Then in regard to education: in North Carolina there are 100,008 children at school, in Virginia there are 109,775, and in South Carolina 40,373: It thus appears that in respect to the provisions for both intellectual and religious instruction, North Carolina is far ahead of each of these States.

And yet notwithstanding all this, look at the report from the Treasury Department, "on Commerce and Navigation," for 1850, the very year the census was taken, and you find that in the exports to foreign countries, Virginia is set down at,

Virginia.	\$ 3,087,444
North Carolina,	426,748
South Carolina,	15,316,578

This is the only criterion by which those unacquainted with the resources, judge of the comparative wealth of

the three States. But let it be recollected, that all the North Carolina tobacco exported, seeks an outlet through Richmond, Petersburg and Lynchburg, and thus passes as Virginia produce. The same is the case with a large portion of our flour, wheat and Indian corn. Our 73,000 bales of Cotton, [and at this time it is more than double that amount,] seeks a market through Petersburg and Norfolk on the North, and Cheraw, Camden and Columbia on the South, and thus goes to swell the amount of South Carolina exports. Besides, a large portion of the cotton exported from South Carolina is raised in Georgia. This report on Commerce and Navigation relates only to *foreign* exports, and has no reference to our coast-wise trade. This beggarly account of the foreign exports of North Carolina is to be accounted for from the fact, that owing to our peculiar geographical position, and the want of good harbors on our coast; our products find an outlet through the ports of other States, or are shipped coastwise in small craft, that can pass over our shallow bars. As a proof of this, the same document exhibits the comparative tonnage of the three States, as follows—

Virginia,	.	.	.	.	68,793 Tons.
North Carolina,	.	.	.	.	43,780 "
South Carolina,	.	.	.	.	35,187 "

showing that in proportion to population, North Carolina exceeds Virginia greatly, and is nearly equal to South Carolina.

It is thus apparent, that these two States have grown rich, and acquired character, upon our bounty; we have helped to build up their towns, and to sustain their works of improvement in draining us of our resources; whilst they have derided us for our poverty, and reproached us for the docility with which we have submitted to our wrongs. But, thank Heaven, a brighter day is dawning upon us. We have only to know our strength, to make us stand up for our

rights; to appreciate our worth, in order to develop our resources, and to respect ourselves. All we need is a more perfect bond of union, a more thorough concentration of our energies. A perfection of our system of improvements will tend to bind us together, by the ties of interest and affection. By fostering our trade and commerce, within our borders, we shall build up cities and thriving towns, as nurseries of industry, enterprise, intellect, and ambition. By improving the soil and adding to the comforts and beauties of our homesteads, we shall teach our children to love the homes of their birth, and to venerate their father-land. By educating them at home, we shall teach them to reverence the institutions of the State, to guard her honor, to elevate her character, and protect her rights.

I hope I indulge in no idle dream, when I think I foresee, that this association, of which it is my pride and boast, to have been one of the original founders, is destined to be the means of disseminating intelligence, stimulating enterprise, encouraging ambition, diffusing the blessings of comfort, happiness and prosperity, and in elevating the character and glory of our beloved State—the fruits of which shall be reaped by others, after we shall be no more. We may not live to enjoy the full fruition of our labors; although our names may never be emblazoned on the historic page; or our deeds be commemorated on “storied urn, or animated bust;” yet we shall have laid the foundation for a great social, moral, and industrial edifice, for which our children and our children’s children will heap blessings on our memories till they shall have laid the cap-stone of the superstructure.

On an occasion like this, it should not be forgotten, that it is to the beneficence of a kind Providence we are indebted, for every blessing we enjoy. To His goodness we owe the plentiful harvest that has during the present year, crowned the labors of the husbandman—and the pleasant intercourse and joyous harmony that mark our present reunion. Whether prosperity or adversity befall us, we should

reflect, that it is to His bounty we are indebted, for "every good and perfect gift." Whether success crown our efforts or disappointment mar our hopes, we should ever be ready to say in the sublime language of Habakuk, "although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines; the labor of the olive shall fail, and the fields shall yield no meat; the flock shall be cut off from the fold, and there shall be no herd in the stalls:—Yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."



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